

How does Poverty and Literacy effect children?

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, in 2011, nearly 660,000 Illinois children lived in poverty, up from 600,000 in 2010 and 500,000 in 2000. As a result, the child poverty rate in Illinois jumped to 21.6 percent in 2011, up from 19.4 percent in 2010 and 15.4 percent in 2000.

Even more disturbing is that one out of four Illinois children under the age of 5 lives in poverty.

Growing up in poverty can have serious and long-lasting effects on children's health, development, and overall well-being. The effects of poverty have a well-documented impact on young children's developing brains. And children who grow up in poverty are more likely to experience harmful levels of stress, more likely to struggle in school, and more likely to have behavioral, social, and emotional problems than their peers.

- ❖ Children in poverty are underrepresented in preschool participation across all major geographic areas of the state.
- ❖ Preschool enrollment rates in Illinois are 58 percent for white children, 55 percent for black children, and 40 percent for Latino children. The gap between Latino and white children is six percentage points larger in Illinois than in the U.S. as a whole.
- ❖ There is a wide range of preschool participation across the largest 21 counties in Illinois, with the highest rates in DuPage, Madison, Kendall, and McLean and the lowest rates in Vermilion, Winnebago, Kankakee, and Kane

Children in poverty are underrepresented in overall preschool enrollment. The decline in state preschool funding, which has coincided with rising child poverty rates, has exacerbated the situation. Low levels of participation among children in poverty indicates the need to increase funding in order to increase capacity (addressed above); better distribute funds among communities based on significant needs; and work to ensure that the children with the greatest disadvantages are being enrolled in local programs.

The Illinois Early Learning Council has been addressing the issue of identifying, recruiting, and serving hard-to-reach families, including families in poverty. **In 2012, six community agencies in Illinois received federal funds to develop innovative strategies to enroll young children from hard-to-reach families in early care and education programs.** An evaluation of this pilot project found that nearly of all the participating agencies had waiting lists and were unable to provide recruited families with immediate access to Head Start, Preschool for all, or another early childhood programs.

Resources

For additional information about this report, please contact:

Lisa Christensen Gee – Policy Analyst, Fiscal Policy Center at Voices for Illinois Children

lchristensengee@voices4kids.org

Larry Joseph – Director of Research, Voices for Illinois Children

ljoseph@voices4kids.org

DATA

PRESCHOOL ACCESS FOR CHILDREN IN WORKING FAMILIES (2015)

Are children who are most in need accessing preschool?

Estimated percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds at or below 185% poverty in Preschool for All or Head Start programs.

Children Living in High Poverty Areas

Number of Children- 360,000

US Children- 10,032,000

Poverty rates are: 2008-12 with 12% increase

A poll of middle and high school students commissioned by the National Education Association found that 56 percent of young people say they read more than 10 books a year, with middle school students reading the most. Some 70 percent of middle school students read more than 10 books a year, compared with only 49 percent of high school students.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress tested children nationwide for reading skills. The results for reading tests for fourth-grade students were: Below the most basic level 38 percent; Proficient 31 percent, and Advanced 7 percent.

<http://www.nea.org/grants/facts-about-childrens-literacy.html>

High School Graduation Data

State of Illinois

Graduation Rate 2014 - 86%

Graduation Rate 2013 - 83.2%

Plainfield District 202

Graduation Rate 2014 - 91.5%

Graduation Rate 2013 - 92.9%

Lockport District 205

Graduation Rate 2014 - 90.25%

Graduation Rate 2013 - 79.3%

Joliet District 204

Graduation Rate 2014 - 75.2%

Graduation Rate 2013 - 72.7%

Valley View District 365U

Graduation Rate 2014 - 84.9%

Graduation Rate 2013 - 83.9%

Source: illinoisreportcard.com

OCT. 20, 2016 — The updated tables provide information by age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, family income, type of college, employment status, nativity, foreign-born parentage, attendance status (full or part time), type of school (public or private) and vocational course enrollment. They also delve into topics such as nursery school and kindergarten enrollment, the likelihood of enrollment in a grade appropriate for their age, and the percentage of young adults enrolled in college.

There were 77.1 million people enrolled in school at all levels in October 2015 (**1.5 million fewer than in 2010**), which was 25.3 percent of the population age 3 and older.

College and university enrollment (undergraduate and graduate) in 2015 was 19.1 million, a **decrease** of 1.2 million below the level reached in 2010 at 20.3 million.

Over the past decade, enrollment in private schools **declined** by 1.4 million at all levels from pre-K to college.

School enrollment of Hispanic students at all levels **grew 35.5** percent in the 10 years from 2005 to 2015.

The percentage of high school dropouts ages 18 to 24 **decreased** from 11.3 percent in 2005 to 6.4 percent in 2015.